

DATE: 8/2/00

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KECN-4

SUBJECT: Supplement Analysis for the Watershed Management Program EIS (DOE/EIS-0265/SA-40)

Mark Shaw - KEWN-4
Fish and Wildlife Project Manager

Proposed Action: Tucannon River Watershed Fish Habitat Enhancement Project

Project No: 99-001-00

Budget No: F5194

Watershed Management Techniques or Actions Addressed Under This Supplement Analysis (See App. A of the Watershed Management Program EIS):

In-Channel Modifications and Habitat Enhancement Techniques

1.6 Install Large Woody Debris Structures; 1.7 Install Other Habitat Complexity Structures; 1.8 Bank Protection Through Vegetation Management; 1.9 Structural Bank Protection using Bioengineering Methods; 1.16 Spawning Habitat Enhancements; 1.17 Rearing Habitat Enhancements.

Special Vegetation Treatment Techniques, Including Techniques for Wetland and Riparian Areas

2.1 Maintain Healthy Riparian Plant Communities; 2.2 Plan/Protect Conifers in Riparian Areas for Thermal Cover; 2.3 Creation of Wetland to Provide Near Channel Habitat and Store Water for Later Use; 2.4 Provide Filter Strips to Catch Sediment and other Pollutants; 2.6 Native Seed Inventories; 2.14 Enhance Large Woody Debris Recruitment.

Agricultural Management Techniques-Crops and General

3.1 Plant/Protect Vegetative/Conservation Cover; 3.2 Conservation Cropping Sequence; 3.3 Conservation Tillage; 3.4 Contour Farming; 3.7 Critical Area Planting; 3.9 Grass and Legumes in Rotation; 3.10 Contour Strip Cropping; 3.11 Field Strip Cropping; 3.12 Terracing; 3.13 Diversion Ditch; 3.15 Filter Strip; 3.16 Grassed Waterway; 3.17 Sediment Basins; 3.18 Sediment and Water Control Basins.

Agricultural Management Techniques-Irrigation

4.18 Purchase/Negotiate Water Right; 4.20 Well Construction for Primary Water Source;

Agricultural Management Techniques-Animal Facility

5.13 Alternative Water Sources

Agricultural Management Techniques-Grazing

6.3 Controlled Grazing; 6.8 Water Supply: Well.

Location: Tucannon River Watershed, Columbia County, Washington

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA), and the Columbia Conservation District (Columbia CD)

Description of the Proposed Action: The Tucannon River Watershed Fish Habitat Enhancement Project includes the following ten individual projects: 1) U.S. Forest Service (USFS) – Sheep Creek Restoration, 2) Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) – State Parks Camp Wooten, 3) USFS – Tucannon Campground, 4) USFS – Tucannon Guard Station, 5) WDFW – Curl Lake, 6) WDFW – Deer Lake Project, 7) Don Howard Below Bridge, 8) Don Howard Lower Feeder, 9) Dick Ducharme, and 10) Dick Rubenser.

The objectives of this project include restoring, protecting and enhancing fish habitat, riparian and upland areas to improve natural production and self-sustainability of ESA listed species. The project involves the installation of instream structures to increase pools and in-water cover for fish, reduce erosion of streambanks, and encourage the formation of narrower and deeper channels. The Sheep Creek project will remove a culvert that restricts fish passage. WDFW will perform pre and post construction habitat assessments of the project areas and Washington State University – Center for Environmental Education will perform water quality sampling.

Analysis: The compliance checklist for this project was completed by the Columbia CD and meets the standards and guidelines for the Watershed Management Program Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Record of Decision (ROD).

Snake River spring and fall chinook salmon, Snake River steelhead trout, bull trout, bald eagle, Ute ladies'-tresses, and Spalding's catchfly are the potentially affected listed threatened or endangered species in the vicinity of the project. The peregrine falcon is also known to occur in the vicinity of the project but is no longer a federally listed threatened or endangered species. The proposed actions are also within designated critical habitat for ESA listed fish. A Biological Assessment was submitted by the Columbia CD to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). For USFWS listed species including bald eagle, Ute ladies'-tresses and Spalding's catchfly, a determination of "no effect" was concluded. For USFWS listed species including bull trout, a determination of "may affect, not likely to adversely affect" was concluded and USFWS concurred with this finding on July 17, 2000. For NMFS listed species, a determination of "may affect, not likely to adversely affect" was concluded. Contingent upon concurrence by NMFS, this proposed action will meet the requirements of NEPA.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) conducted a Cultural Resource Inventory of the project areas. The State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), the Nez Perce Tribe, and the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Reservation were contacted in June 2000. No further contact was made as no cultural resource sites were identified within the project areas.

Findings: The project is generally consistent with Section 7.6 A, A1, A2, 7.6B, B1-B6, 7.6C, 7.6D, 7.7 & 7.7A, of the Northwest Power Planning Council's Fish and Wildlife Program. The attached Supplement Analysis finds 1) that the proposed actions are substantially consistent with the Watershed Management Program EIS (DOE/EIS-0265) and ROD, and; 2) that there are no new circumstances or information relevant to environmental concerns and bearing on the proposed actions or their impacts. Therefore, no further NEPA documentation is required.

/s/ Tish K. Levesque

Tish K. Levesque

Environmental Specialist - KECN

CONCUR: /s/ Thomas C. McKinney

Thomas C. McKinney

NEPA Compliance Officer

DATE: 8/2/00

Attachments:

NEPA Compliance Checklist

USFWS Concurrence Letter

cc:

T. Bruegman – Columbia Conservation District

K. Nakata – DOE/EH-42

B. Beraud - KECN-4

N. Weintraub - KECN-4

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Official File - KECN (EQ-14)